Angiology of the Sensorial Organs

The XXI Scientific Meeting of the Italian Society of Angiology, organised by the Directing Committee, presided by Prof. Comel, which took place in Padua on June 8-9, 1963, Prof. Arslan acting as chairman, was dedicated to studying the angiology of the sensorial organs.

A “Panel Discussion” took place during the first day. The part concerning the sight organ was entrusted to Prof. G. Francois of Gandes, hearing to Prof. E. Borghesan of Palermo and M. Del Bo of Milan, taste to Prof. P. Cargo of Bologna, smell to Prof. E. Fortunato of Catania and I. Serafini of Padua. The clinical competence of these speakers was supported by the morphological one of Prof. Bucciante of Padua, specifically entrusted to deal with all the general problems concerning micro-histangiolog y of the sensorial organs.

Prof. Arslan, as moderator of the “Panel”, first of all introduces the subject, pointing out each question which should be discussed. The first question concerns the nutritive mechanism of the receptors of the sensorial organs, considering the fact that they have no capillary vessels. The second question dwells specifically on the physiopathology of the vascularization of those structures, which, in the sensorial organs, are appointed to “modulate” the stimulus, adapting it to the receptor. The third question faces the subject of vaso-motor adjustment in the sensorial organs, trying to establish how much the regulation of this function is submitted to the peripheric neurovegetative system’s activity and how much instead of it is due to an independent local regulation, under the action of chemoreceptors and pressoreceptors of the vascular wall. The fourth question, deriving directly from the third, intends to explain and appreciate the rationality of the medical and surgical treatments directed to cervical-thoracic neurovegetative structures, for the therapy of a series of diseases of the sensorial organs. On this last subject Prof. Conforti of Padua has brought the contribution of his neuro-surgical experience.

The orderly debate, which took place, with the participation of internists and angiologists, on each question, was of the greatest interest and on a high level. At the end Prof. Arslan made a critical synthesis of the attained conclusions.

The second day meeting (a symposium) was exclusively dedicated to oto-rhino-laryngologic angiology. Fr. Dittrich (Geneva) speaks about the dynamics of fluids in the posterior labyrinth in normal and pathologic conditions, dwelling principally on the physical questions of the subject.

G. Aliprandi, A. Limentani and M. Pesenti (Milan) tell about their studies on the hematolabyrinthic wall, performed using radio-active isotopes. They have studied wall behaviour, particularly in relation to the action of some drugs, among these noradrenalin, histamine and serotonin.

A. Bosotra and G. B. Stefani (Padua) face the problem concerning sudden deafness, pointing out its great interest, from a clinical and pathogenetic outlook. They show the numerous etiopathogenic moments which are at the base of this disease, rightly neglecting opinions, too exclusive and mechanistic, predominating in the past. This communication rouses a lively discussion, to which Prof. Moro (Padua) takes part, transferring the same problems, for their analogy, in the oculistic field; Prof. Pratesi (Florence) transfers them in the field of encephalic angiology; Prof. Galioto (Pavia) asserts their importance in oto-rhino-laryngology.

F. Cavazzani (Vicenza) tells about two cases of aneurysm of the anterior cranial fossa, with a prevailing sinusalgic symptomatology.

M. Cherubino and G. B. Galioto (Pavia) tell about their researches on the circulatory dynamics of the inferior turbinal district. They have used nasal sphygmoelectro-manometry, echography of the turbinates, applying electrodes on head and tail of the turbinas itself, and plethysmography. They conclude stating that the first method gives informations more strictly adhering to the local anatomo-clinical situation, while the second gives particularly information on the conditions of the vascular tone, while the third expresses the total variations of the turbinas’ volume.

A. De Cresti, G. Orlandi, A. Sant (Milano) have done an experimental study on anastomoses and grafts of the dog’s jugular vein, showing the results.
F. Fabbi (Forli) describes his observations on the physiopathology of the nose’s vascular net.

F. Greco and C. Trombini (Reggio Emilia) show the contribution that external carotidography, by injecting the contrast medium through the superficial temporal, can give to diagnosis in the oto-rhino-laryngologic field.

E. Mora and A. Ottoboni (Genova) relate on the action that some vessel-dilating drugs can have on the cochleal-vestibular troubles from systemic arteriopathies.

M. Ottaviani, M. Pesenti and G. Aliprandi (Milan) have done research, using radioactive sodium, on the physiopathology of the perilymph.

E. Pallestrini and E. Mora (Genova) relate on the vestibular functional deficiencies which can be found in subjects affected by systemic arteriopathies.

C. F. Porta (Parma) amply examines vasomotor manifestations of the larynx and the means of its innervation. He dwells underlining how important and how interesting are the vascular disturbances of this organ, which can occur parallelly to the more remarkable and studied ones of other districts.

F. Pratesi, C. Decidda and C. Corsi (Florence) propose a new technique for rheographic investigation. It is done by applying, with a small probe, an electrode in the superior pharynx and the other one externally on the neck. This allows one to explore in a selective way the sphygmic activity of each vertebral artery. Radiological vertebrographie registrations, obtained by a special technique, which allows one to see the two arteries at the same time, are brought forward as a proof of the validity of the rheographic registrations.

O. Sala (Padua) contributes to the knowledge of the acute cochleal-vestibular vasculopathies.

The meeting, rigorously circumscribed as to its subject, has been able to attain, owing to its careful grounding and to the high competence of the participants, really positive results. It has ended with brief words of farewell by Prof. Arslan and Prof. Coneo (F. Pratesi).

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